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DISMAL

... that's Amersham's League Cup farewell

Amersham Town 6, Ditch 2

AMERSHAM gave one of their most dismal displays of the season when they were beaten 6-2 on Saturday by Ditch in the Hellenic League Challenge Cup at Spry's Meadow.

Ditch were faster in the ball and showed more spirit and determination than the Magpies and were allowed to dictate play when really being challenged by the home team.

SO BAD

Even though Amersham were playing so badly it was Pethorpe who came nearest to scoring when he fired a tremendous shot which fell far from the target.

Amersham last Summerfield scored a tremendous goal into the top left-hand corner of the net but again was followed by a spectacular move by Ditch.

Ditch repeated against Amersham with 15 minutes of the second half remaining took the lead when Delmeida gained possession six yards from the Amersham goal, was allowed to turn, lay possession of the ball and again it, and push the ball into the net while two Amersham defenders stood watching.

The opening of the second half saw Amersham continuing to play in a casual manner, allowing Ditch to play all the attacking football without ever looking threatened. They in the second half was of a scrappy nature with neither side playing much football.

After 28 minutes play Ryder came on in place of Summerfield in an endeavour to put life into the Magpies' attack and the move nearly succeeded when he combined with Nibbet and took the seven pass hit a goal, but the keeper saved.

Ditch, however, and only started work by Bennett and Barry kept the Magpies in the lead. With 15 minutes remaining Ditch were further ahead when Webb, an influential left-half, ran across the field of play to the right-hand position before putting the ball across the face of the goal to Delmeida who rolled home again from 10 yards.

This set-back forced the Amersham team and they played their best football in the remaining 10 minutes, but were followed by a head-tackling Ditch defence in which Marriott was outstanding.

Amersham's leading scorers, Allan Haggerty, Brooker, Brian Nibbet, Summerfield, Pethorpe, Barry Ryder.

Ditch: Jefferys, Coggett, Haynes, Marriott, Marks, Webb, Goodenough, Barber, Peto, Delmeida, Jackson, Bush, Crocker.

A place in Round 2? A quick Cup exit? What awaits as...

WANDERERS HIT THE TRAIL TO WEMBLEY

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' journey to Oxford City on Saturday takes a new importance following the demise of their Isthmian League aspirations.

For the Amateur Cup is the last possible major title still available to the Loukes Park club this season. A quick exit would leave nothing but a tilt at the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup to drive them from the Christmas holiday programme to the end of the term.

Manager Barry Davill has "special cup-of-training" prepared for his squad of 12 from which he picked the team to play City on Monday night (not Stop Press, page 1).

Davill, who spent three years on the playing field at the White Horse, before joining Wycombe as team boss almost five years ago, is thus no stranger to Oxford.

"They are a useful side, playing well at the moment. There won't be much in it, but I'm confident that we will win," he said soon after the Walsingham game on Saturday.

His optimism however is not quite the general forecast on how the game will turn out. Many anticipate that Wanderers will not survive to be involved in the second round draw; others will go no further than predicting a Wycombe win via a mid-week replay.

In company with Davill, Saturday will see a return to old haunts for both centre-half Ian Rundle and goalkeeper John Marriott, who, with the Wycombe attack, will need to play a major part in

Extra

... but City will be favourites



John Marriott (left) and Ian Rundle will both be returning to their former haunts.

... but City will be favourites

IF NOT quite odds-on, Oxford City must be considered clear favourites — despite their shock five-goal home defeat dished out by Sid Caine's men from Sutton United, last Saturday.

In England's international goalkeeper, John Shippey, they hold perhaps the key to the whole match. For, as Walsingham's Andy Williams proved over the week-end, Wycombe's attack needs command skills backed from a solid defence when Vince Faulkner continues to lose his way at the 18-yard line.

In Tony Horvath and Les Merrick, Shippey has greater problems, but there is an element of the unpredictable about Wycombe, and Shippey must take them as he finds them.

At the other end of the field, a probable threat to Wycombe will come from inside-left Tony

Bradbury, who after spending several weeks at Loukes Park during the pre-season training period, decided to stay at the City books.

A likely inclusion in the Oxford defence is George Puffin, a familiar figure to Loukes Park patrons who will remember him as a former Wanderers' stalwart.

The Oxford lineup has remained unchanged for their last three outings, with: Shippey; Bradbury, Puffin; Pethorpe, Shuttleworth, Metcalfe, Hellyer, Morton, Orm, Bradbury, and Woodley.

Last season, Oxford's quiet but steady run in the Amateur Cup was terminated in a replay with Chesham United, when they became just one of four of the "giant killers" four Isthmian victims.



Wokingham goalkeeper Andy Williams rises to clear a corner.

Stuart Thompson back to help Wycombe win

Wokingham Reserves 6, Wycombe Wanderers Reserves 3

STUART THOMPSON made a welcome return, after injury, to the Wycombe Reserve side at Woking on Saturday. He helped in consolidating the defence and was constantly prompting the forwards.

It took the reserves quite a while to settle into any pattern and early play was marred by some inaccurate passing, especially from the wing, to collect. As the Woking 'keeper hoisted for a moment Kelly neatly dished the ball into the corner of the net.

In the second half the small and quick Woking forwards were frustrated by a strong Wycombe defence in which Colla Reid made some good interceptions and clearances. It was after some Woking pressure that the Wanderers managed to break quickly from defence and increase their lead. Steve Freeman, who had been moving well in the front line, quickly slipped the ball to Viv Busby who hit the ball hard and low through the legs of the oncoming goalkeeper.

This made amends for his earlier miss in a similar situation. Wycombe now continued to press home their advantages and completed their scoring with an excellent glancing header by Freeman from a Loukes corner.



GEDDES WALKS OUT

Risboro' goalkeeper quits club at half-time. Meeting is called

IN A sensational incident during the half-time interval at Windsor Playing Fields on Saturday, Francis Risborough Town's goalkeeper, George Geddes, walked out on his team, telling manager Ron Trent he would not continue.

After changing and showering, Geddes made a quick exit from the ground. This dramatic turn of events followed a first period in which struggling Risborough had conceded four times to Thatcham's attack.

The Risborough club committee held a meeting on Monday night to discuss the sorry position the club finds itself in, both financially and residentially. Said secretary, Alan Vickers, after Saturday's exit: "No doubt the Geddes incident will be discussed in full, and appropriate action will be taken."

It was all just one more blow to a club that has been down since the day when the Thatcham defence was tipped open seven times, in a humiliating home defeat. Coming so soon after the grinding failure against Risborough, a defeat left Risborough a shambles club.

Confusing

The first half was a confusing affair, Risborough, having the edge on clear cut chances produced, but not taking them, while the visiting forwards took all that were offered them.

Young Michael Anderson, drafted into the team for his first game in the Senior side did as well as anyone but Brian Peet, playing in the unfamiliar centre half position never looked really at home and Maggs, the dangerous and pro-

well with Bill Cox and with co-thinking Barry Walsh were contained the home team attack while Stuart Hammond stuck to fast winger Lamb like a leech.

Tracks

In the 20th minute Bennett stopped Dunn in his tracks, after he had received a well-placed ball from Lee. In the 25th minute Bob Shepherd slipped past Lee and found Tommy Chapman with a good long pass and goalkeepers Brown did well to stop Chapman's chirpily

Newcomers

IN SPITE of starting with the disadvantage of having only nine men—Frank Howard and Brian Bennett were delayed and late starters—and, probably as a result of that, were a goal down in the first five minutes, Chalfont St. Peter quickly recovered and took the initiative at Chesham on Saturday.

Derik Clark went Frank Howard's jersey for the first 10 minutes and in spite of some shrewd work in that unenviable position was unable to stop Crown and Manor's scoring in the fifth minute from a centre by Monaghan. To fight of relief from the Chalfont supporters, Howard and Bennett came on five minutes later and the strain for the nine men was lifted.

Chalfont recover after starting with only nine men

Crown and Manor 1, Chalfont St. Peter 3

well with Bill Cox and with co-thinking Barry Walsh were contained the home team attack while Stuart Hammond stuck to fast winger Lamb like a leech.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS F.C.

Saturday, December 14th

RESERVES v ENFIELD RESERVES

Loukes Park — 3 p.m.

F.A. Amateur Cup 1st Round

1st XI v OXFORD CITY

White Horse Ground, Oxford — 3 p.m.

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